

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. L. V. Boardman

DATE: November 23, 1955

FROM : Mr. A. H. Belmont

SUBJECT: JOHN GILBERT GRAHAM  
SABOTAGE

Tolson	
Boardman	
Nichols	
Belmont	
Harbo	
Mohr	
Parsons	
Rosen	
Tamm	
Sizoo	
Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Holloman	
Gandy	

My memorandum to you dated November 18, 1955, enclosed a memorandum containing information regarding this case, brief data on previous cases, and information regarding the steps being taken to develop an effective means of preventing similar cases in the future. Mr. Tolson noted "This will have to be revised in light of later developments, 11/21, T." The Director noted "Yes. H."

The memorandum I previously submitted has been brought up to date and is enclosed. New material has been added on pages 4, 4a, 5, 9 and 10.

Investigation in this case is continuing, additional corroborating evidence will be developed, and prosecution is pending. Also Bureau letter to Denver November 22, 1955, instructed Denver to prepare in detail the investigative steps taken which led to the solution of this case, including information that would not ordinarily be made a matter of record in investigative reports and a complete biographical sketch of Graham.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is suggested that this memorandum be returned on Monday of each week, while this case continues to be active, to be brought up to date. The Sabotage Desk will endeavor to keep a tickler copy up to date on daily basis and if the memorandum needs to be brought up to date between Mondays this can be done in a very short time.

Enclosure

cc - Mr. Boardman  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. C. L. Rogers  
Mr. Baumgardner

GWH:gft:ejp  
(8)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

DATE 2/22/64 BY 60290 BCT/IG/KER

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He said that in assembling his bomb he used 25 sticks of dynamite, 2 blasting caps, a 6 volt battery, and a timing device. He said that he assembled this material in October, 1955, kept it concealed in his car, and just before driving his mother to the airport on November 1, 1955, he prepared the bomb and secretly placed it in a large suitcase which was part of her luggage. He said that he set the timing device at the maximum which was 90 minutes, hoping that the plane would be over the mountains before the bomb exploded. Since the take-off was delayed 22 minutes the plane had only been airborne about 11 minutes at the time of the explosion and Graham said that he was still at the airport restaurant with his wife when he was advised of the crash.

#### Development of Corroborating Evidence

Corroborating evidence has been developed to support Graham's confession and the statements which the FBI obtained from other individuals with regard to Graham's having placed a package in his mother's luggage. b6 b7C b7D

A salesman for an electrical supply company in Denver has advised that an individual named Jack and furnishing Graham's telephone number, ordered a timing device in October, 1955, from the electrical supply store. This salesman identified a photograph of Graham as the individual who picked up this timer on October 26 and traded it on October 28 for a different one. Four other employees of this electrical store identified Graham from a photograph as the individual who purchased this timer. This timer does not fit the description furnished by the subject of the one he used in his bomb. It has not been established that it actually was used or if not, where it is at the present time.

[redacted] advised that he recalled the sale of 20 or 25 sticks of dynamite and 2 blasting caps to a person answering Graham's description. On November 21, 1955, [redacted] identified Graham in a line-up as the man to whom he had sold this dynamite and the 2 blasting caps about October 29, 1955. [redacted] was not able to state the exact date as no sales ticket or other record was made.

While being interviewed Graham advised that in 1945 he lived on a ranch near Kremmling, Colorado.

The wire found in Graham's shirt pocket has been identified by [redacted] Illinois Powder Manufacturing Company, Denver, Colorado, as being

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On November 22, 1955, Denver advised that investigation had established that Graham was in Denver on October 29, 1955. the date [ ] thought he sold the dynamite to Graham at [ ] Another employee of [ ] store who may have witnessed this sale is currently in Fallon, Nevada. He will be interviewed.

A box of dynamite containing 146 sticks which appeared to be full case found at King ranch, property formerly owned by subject's mother. Dynamite manufactured by Illinois Powder Company. Purchaser of this dynamite not established to date. Investigation in this regard continuing.

Denver is continuing exhaustive investigation on a special basis to definitely fix the dynamite purchase, to develop all possible information concerning the timing device and to attempt to locate the place where Graham procured the battery used. Denver teletype December 3, 1955, states that no additional positive factors concerning these items have been developed.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

DENVER

REPORT MADE AT <b>DENVER</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>MAR 12 1956</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>11/29; 12/12, 23, 30/55; 1/3, 5 - 3/6/56</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>RL:JM</b>
TITLE <b>JACK GILBERT GRAHAM, was.</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SABOTAGE</b>	
AGENCY <b>REC. REC'D</b>		b6 b7C	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:		BY <b>cc 1/16/56</b>	
<p>Additional pieces and fragments of metal obtained from area over which United Air Lines DC-6B airplane exploded and crashed on 11/1/55 and from United Air Lines warehouse Denver, where most of the wreckage and debris of the plane is now located. Material obtained forwarded to FBI Laboratory. FBI Laboratory identified piece of carbon and pieces of metal previously forwarded to Laboratory as similar to like materials found in Eveready Hot Shot battery. FBI Laboratory advised handwriting on three insurance applications, except signatures, is that of subject. Acquaintance of subject advised subject and his wife visited at his home during the evening of 10/29/55. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 20px;"> </span> Kremmling, Colo., now remembers selling dynamite to subject on 10/22/55. On 1/12/56, Denver District Judge JOSEPH McDONALD, made known findings of psychiatrists, who examined GRAHAM. These findings reflect GRAHAM sane. Sanity trial was scheduled for 3/5/56. Subject attempted suicide on 2/10/56 in Denver County Jail; attempt unsuccessful. Defense attorneys withdrew request for sanity trial on 2/24/56. Subject entered plea of innocence, trial to begin 4/16/56. Defense attorneys filed subject's petition for "Waiver of Jury Trial" on 3/1/56. Judge McDONALD denied this petition on 3/6/56.</p>			
<p>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE <b>2/22/01</b> BY <b>SP-6 JAC/BJD/BJD</b></p>		<p>AGENCY <b>cc 1/16/56, 1/16/56</b> REC. REC'D DATE <b>3-15-56</b> BY <b>PR B. W. R.</b></p>	
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>⑤ - Bureau (98-43035)</p> <p>1 - USA, Denver</p> <p>3 - Denver (98-331)</p> <p>COPIES DESTROYED</p> <p>R241 JAN 30 1962</p>		<p>98-1 43035-30</p> <p>14 MAR 14 1956</p> <p>RECORDED</p> <p>INDEXED</p> <p>SE 43</p>	

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[redacted] International  
Register Co., 2620 West Washington  
Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois

[redacted] Clock  
Timer Department, Houseware and Radio  
Receiver Division, Telechron, General  
Electric Co., Ashland, Massachusetts

[redacted] Rocky Mountain  
Metal Products Co., 1450 Galapago Street,  
Denver, Colorado

[redacted] A. F. Long Co.,  
1201 Welton Street, Denver, Colorado

B. Dynamite and Caps

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In reference to the formerly reported information  
concerning the sale of dynamite to subject GRAHAM by [redacted]

[redacted] advised SA [redacted]  
[redacted] on January 12, 1956, that he very definitely  
remembers now that the date on which he sold dynamite to  
GRAHAM was on October 22, 1955. [redacted] stated he has  
been thinking the situation over very carefully since he  
first made it known that it was he who had sold the  
dynamite to GRAHAM, and he stated that he very definitely  
did not sell the dynamite to GRAHAM on Saturday, October  
15, 1955, inasmuch as that was the opening of the hunting  
season. Concerning the hunting season, he said he had never  
had a better day for business from hunters and he, there-  
fore, remembers it was not on the fifteenth that he sold  
the dynamite to GRAHAM. [redacted] stated that he remembers  
very definitely now that it was not on October 29, 1955,  
that he had sold dynamite to GRAHAM inasmuch as that was  
the date on which he had received information that his  
partner in a business venture, JIM ESKRIDGE, had been  
killed. He stated he received this news shortly after  
6:00 p.m. and that he went directly home after receiving  
the news of ESKRIDGE's death. [redacted] further stated  
that he had verified ESKRIDGE's death by making a long  
distance telephone call at about 6:00 p.m. on October 29,  
1955. He stated he checked on this particular call and  
found that the time of the call was very close to 6:00 p.m.

[redacted] stated that he remembered that subject GRAHAM purchased 20 or 25 sticks of dynamite, the exact number he cannot recall. He remembered that he asked GRAHAM whether he wanted regular or ditch powder and GRAHAM's answer to that question was "regular". [redacted] said that he also very definitely remembers selling two electric caps with sixteen foot wires attached, to GRAHAM. He stated that he did not ordinarily sell electric caps in other than box lots; however, that he had a box of caps open at that particular time and, therefore, sold two caps to GRAHAM. [redacted] further stated that he remarked to GRAHAM "You doing some prospecting?" and he stated GRAHAM answered "Yeah".

In reference to the previously reported interview with [redacted] was reinterviewed on January 12, 1956, by SA [redacted] at Kremmling, Colorado, at which time he stated that he believes it was on October 19, 1955, that he saw a young man talk to [redacted] after which [redacted] requested him to obtain two cases of ditching powder from the magazine. He stated he obtained the powder from the magazine and upon returning, placed the dynamite on the appropriate shelf in the back of the store. He stated he did not return to the front of the store inasmuch as he had completed his day's work. b6 b7C b7D

The following are individuals and companies contacted in an effort to locate persons having information regarding source of dynamite obtained by subject GRAHAM.

No positive information was obtained from the following persons:

[redacted] Illinois  
Powder Manufacturing Co., Durango, Colorado

[redacted] Johnson Supply Co.,  
Durango, Colorado

[redacted] G and H Uranium Co.,  
Durango, Colorado

[redacted] Graham Hardware Co.,  
Durango, Colorado

DN 98-331

[redacted] McCoy Co., Grand Junction,  
Colorado

[redacted] Con-  
tractors, New Castle, Colorado

[redacted] Eagle County,  
Eagle, Colorad

[redacted] Independent  
Lumber Co., Eagle, Colorado

[redacted] United Lumber  
and Mercantile Co., Glenwood Springs,  
Colorado

[redacted]  
Thompson Creek Coal and Coke Co., located  
on Thompson Creek near Carbondale, Colorado

[redacted] Denver Office,  
Illinois Powder Manufacturing Co., 221  
Santa Fe, Denver, Colorado

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[redacted] Arapahoe County  
Sheriff's Office, Littleton, Colorado

[redacted] Union Supply  
Co., 5460 Colorado Boulevard, Derby,  
Colorado

[redacted]  
[redacted] Climax Molybdenum Co.,  
Climax, Colorado

[redacted], Gunnison,  
Colorado

[redacted] Gunnison County,  
Gunnison, Colorado

[redacted]  
[redacted]

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[REDACTED] Findley Tungsten Mines,  
Boulder, Colorado

[REDACTED] Hétzer Mines, Nederland,  
Colorado

[REDACTED] Cold Spring Mine, Boulder  
County, Colorado

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[REDACTED] Comstock Mine, Nederland,  
Colorado

[REDACTED] Nederland Mine, Nederland,  
Colorado

[REDACTED] Boulder County,  
Boulder, Colorado